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E.O. 11652:GDS

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. PANAMA ALLEGES--AND DENOUNCES--DESTABILIZATION PLOT

A "DETAILED, OFFICIAL REPORT," PREPARED BY TORRIJOS' INFORMATION ADVISOR, ANNOUNCED DISCOVERY OF A DESTABILIZATION PLOT TO SUBVERT THE GOP "PUT IN MARCH BY FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC SECTORS." KEY ELEMENTS OF THE ALLEGED PLOT, AS REPORTED BY EMBASSY PANAMA, INCLUDE:

--WIDESPREAD RUMOR-MONGERING, FOLLOWED BY THE REFUSAL OF AP AND UPI TO PUBLISH EXPLANATORY STATEMENTS ISSUED BY THE INFORMATION ADVISOR.

--PARTICIPATION OF LOCAL AND FOREIGN AGENTS PROVOVOCATEURS, INCLUDING US MILITARY INTELLIGENCE PERSONNEL, IN RECENT STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS.

--PRIVATE MEETINGS OF MEMBERS OF THE PANAMANIAN
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OLIGARCHY TO DRAFT LEAFLETS AND PLOT DISTURBANCES.

US INVOLVEMENT, IN ADDITION TO ROCK-THROWING AND "INCITE-MENT" BY US MILITARY INTELLIGENCE, ALLEGEDLY INCLUDED

"FALSE INFORMATION" BROADCAST BY THE SOUTHERN COMMAND TV STATION DURING THE DEMONSTRATIONS.

EMBASSY PANAMA ISSUED A STATEMENT THAT "NEITHER THE USG NOR ANY OF ITS AGENCIES" WAS INVOLVED IN THE DISTURBANCES AND REGRETTED THE UNFAVORABLE IMPACT OF THE UNFOUNDED ALLEGATIONS ON OUR ONGOING BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS. LATER, FOREIGN MINISTER BOYD PRESENTED AMBASSADOR JORDEN WITH A FORMAL NOTE PROTESTING THE ALLEGED US INVOLVEMENT AND REQUESTED THAT THE USG TAKE NECESSARY MEASURES TO PREVENT FUTURE INTERFERENCE BY US FORCES IN PANAMANIAN AFFAIRS. (SECRET) PANAMA 6484, 9/17.

2. LEBANON: FRANGIE REORGANIZES CABINET

IN A SURPRISE MOVE, LEBANESE PRESIDENT FRANGIE HAS STRIPPED PRIME MINISTER KARAME OF HIS MINISTRIES (DEFENSE, FINANCE AND INFORMATION), AND MADE CHAMOUN VICE PRIME MINISTER, ACTING PM IN KARAME'S ABSENCE, AND MINISTER OF DEFENSE, INTERIOR AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS. FRANGIE ALSO ADDED GEORGES SKAFF TO THE CABINET (FINANCE), THUS RESTORING THE CONFESSONAL BALANCE WHICH WAS LOST WHEN PHILLIP TAQLA LEFT LEBANON.

EMBASSY COMMENT: FRANGIE HAS ATTEMPTED TO DEAL KARAME A DOUBLE BLOW BY DEPRIVING HIM OF HIS LEADING PORTFOLIOS WHILE GREATLY INCREASING CHAMOUN'S STATUS. POSSIBLE REASONS FOR THIS MOVE, ONLY EIGHT DAYS BEFORE THE EXPIRATION OF FRANGIE'S MANDATE, ARE:

--TO ENABLE FRANGIE TO HOLD A CABINET MEETING, WITHOUT KARAME, TO MAKE SOME FINAL CHANGES TO STRENGTHEN THE POSITION OF THE HARD-LINE CHRISTIANS; OR

--TO PLACE CHAMOUN RATHER THAN KARAME AT THE HEAD
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OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE.

IN ANY EVENT, THIS MOVE HAS ADDED FURTHER CONFUSION TO THE SITUATION HERE. (CONFIDENTIAL) BEIRUT 7480, 9/16.

3. EGYPT: SADAT WINS VOTER APPROVAL

IN THE SEPTEMBER 16 PRESIDENTIAL REFERENDUM, 99.94 PERCENT

OF THE VOTERS INDICATED THEY WANTED PRESIDENT SADAT TO
REMAIN IN OFFICE. THIS COMPARES WITH A 90 PERCENT
YES VOTE IN THE OCTOBER 1970 REFERENDUM. (UNCLASSIFIED)
CAIRO 12586, 9/17.

4. DENKTASH: TURKISH CYPRUS IS INDEPENDENT

EMBASSY NICOSIA REPORTS THAT TURKISH CYPRIOT LEADER
DENKTASH SAID ON SEPTEMBER 15, IN RESPONSE TO A
QUESTION ON UDI, "WE ARE A SEPARATE STATE AND A
SEPARATE GOVERNMENT. THE QUESTION IS THE TIMING OF
ASKING THE WORLD TO RECOGNIZE THIS SEPARATION. WE
SHALL BE FORCED TO MAKE A NEW ASSESSMENT OF THE
SITUATION FOLLOWING THE FORTHCOMING UNGA DEBATES."
(UNCLASSIFIED) NICOSIA 2837, 9/15. ROBINSON

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